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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JOHN FRANKLIN RIXEY

(Late a Representative from Virginia)

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES



Fifty-ninth Congress
Second Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 25, 1907

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
March 2, 1907

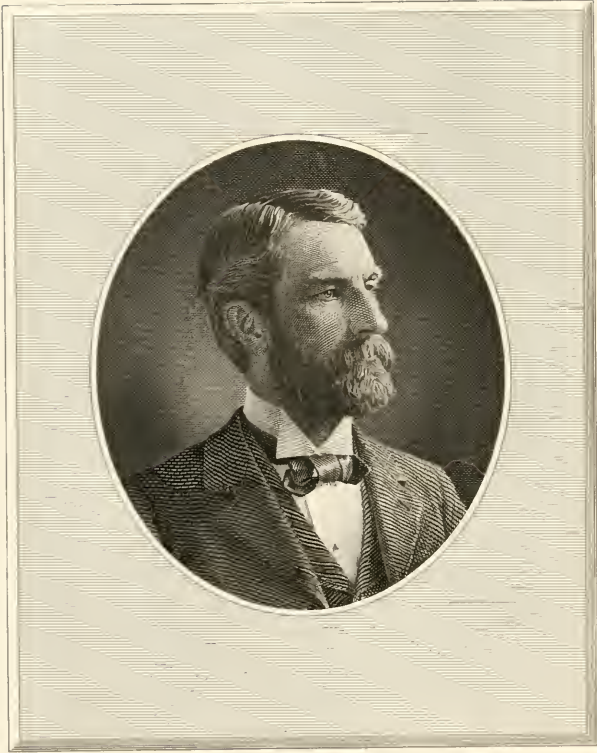
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DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE JOHN F. RIXEY

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

SATURDAY, *February 9, 1907.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The following prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D.:

We come to Thee, O God, our Heavenly Father, praying for that light which never shown on sea or shore, but which illumines the mind, quickens the heart, and makes for righteousness in man, proving his Divine sonship and making the whole world akin; which dignifies the smallest duty, renders easy the hardest tasks, and leads on to heroism and glory when heroes are needed.

Our hearts are profoundly moved this morning by the sudden death of one who for years in modesty and humility worked faithfully and well upon the floor of this House, rendering to his country a service worthy to be recorded by the angels above. We most fervently pray that his colleagues, his friends, and the dear ones of his heart may be comforted by the thought that sometime somewhere, they will be united to him where sorrows never come. Hear us in the name of Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with inexpressible sadness and unfeigned grief that I announce to the House

the death of my colleague, the Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, which occurred at the residence in this city of his brother, the Surgeon-General of the Navy, about 9 o'clock this morning. At some future time I shall ask the House to set apart a day that Members may have an opportunity to pay tribute to the personal virtues and public services of my colleague.

I now send to the Clerk's desk and ask to have read the resolutions which I offer, and for which I ask immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with deep regret and profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, a Representative from the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of seventeen Members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, may be appointed to attend the funeral at Culpeper, Va., and that the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy to the family of the deceased.

The question was taken; and the resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces the following committee.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Jones, of Virginia, Mr. Hay, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Flood, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Glass, Mr. Slem, Mr. Southall, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Foss, Mr. Meyer, Mr. William W. Kitchin, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Williams, Mr. De Armond, Mr. Burton, of Ohio, and Mr. Slayden.

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to my deceased colleague, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER. Pending the motion, the Chair will announce

that the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. LOVERING, will preside over the session of the House to-morrow.

The motion to adjourn was then agreed to.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes) the House adjourned until Sunday at 12 o'clock m.

MONDAY, *February 11, 1907.*

A message announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Representative from the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of seven Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

And, in compliance with the foregoing, the Vice-President had appointed as said committee Mr. Daniel, Mr. Taliaferro, Mr. Dick, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Ankeny, Mr. Flint, and Mr. Clarke, of Arkansas.

THURSDAY, *February 14, 1907.*

Mr. JONES, of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the following order, which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ordered, That when the House shall adjourn on Sunday, February 24, it shall be to meet at 10 a. m. on Monday, February 25, and at the said session of Monday, the 25th, eulogies of the life, character, and public services of the Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Representative from Virginia, shall be in order until the hour of 12 m.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

MONDAY, *February 25, 1907.*

The House met at 10 o'clock a. m.

The Clerk read the following:

SPEAKER'S ROOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., February 25, 1907.

I hereby designate Hon. WILLIAM A. JONES, of Virginia, as Speaker pro tempore during this day.

J. G. CANNON, *Speaker.*

Mr. JONES of Virginia took the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

O Thou who hast made us after Thine own image and filled our breasts with longings, hopes, and aspirations which are ever leading us onward and upward to larger life, we thank Thee for the pure, the noble, the true, who in their conduct strive continually to measure up to the standard of perfected manhood in Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for the ties of love and affection which bind us together, so that when one rejoices all rejoice, when one suffers all suffer with him, and when one is taken from our midst in death, the heart is bowed in sorrow and we cherish the words he uttered, the things he did; above all the service he freely gave to his fellow-men.

“Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Bless, we beseech Thee, the service of the hour and help us to cherish in our hearts the memory of him for whom it is set apart, that we copy his virtues and live the larger life of which he was a conspicuous example in his home, in his community, and on the floor of this House, where he rendered faithful and

efficient service for his country. Comfort his family, his friends and colleagues, and all who mourn his loss with the blessed assurance that though he may not return to us we shall go to him and dwell with him forever; and glory and honor and praise be Thine, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Mann] will please take the chair.

Mr. MANN took the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

Mr. JONES of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Member of this House from the State of Virginia, and in pursuance of the order heretofore made, the business of the House be now suspended to enable his associates to pay fitting tribute to his high character and distinguished services.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be, and he is hereby, instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were agreed to.



MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ADDRESS OF MR. JONES, OF VIRGINIA

Mr. SPEAKER: When, on Saturday, a fortnight ago, the announcement of the death of my late colleague, the Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, was made in this House, it came with startling suddenness to most of us, for, although for many sad and dreary months he had been suffering from a deadly malady, few outside of his immediate family and closest friends realized that the grim destroyer had long since marked him for his own. There was little in his appearance and bearing, and far less in the lightsome and energetic manner in which he met and so faithfully discharged the manifold duties of his high position, betokening the dread disease which even then was steadily and surely doing its deadly work. With high courage, patriotic purpose, and a rare devotion to the interests of the constituency which had so long delighted to honor him, he positively refused to quit his post of duty upon this floor, although repeatedly and earnestly admonished by his physicians that to remain was to seriously endanger if not to sacrifice his life. Hence it was that many of his friends were shocked as well as grieved when it became known that almost immediately upon the adjournment of Congress he had gone away in quest of health—first, to the mountains of North Carolina; then to Colorado, and, later still, to northern New York, in what proved a vain effort to stay the encroachments of a dis-

ease which has ever baffled the physicians' skill, and which no climate, warmed by the sun's bright circle, can surely and permanently eradicate. And so, despairing of recovery and resigned to a fate which he recognized to be inexorable, he quietly returned in the early winter season to the home in this city of his brother, Admiral Presley M. Rixey, the Surgeon-General of the Navy, there to await with submissive patience, sublime fortitude, and an inspiring Christian resignation the final summons to his eternal reward. It is not possible to recall without a feeling of sadness that since the beginning of the Fifty-ninth Congress "death's inexorable doom" has been pronounced against fifteen of our comrades, eleven of whom served in this House and four in the Senate Chamber; but never, I fain would believe, has the icy hand of the grim destroyer been laid upon a Member of this body who was more universally respected and esteemed and more generally beloved.

So to-day, amid the stern exactions of duty which invariably accompany and are inseparable from the closing hours of a session of Congress, we have suspended the work of legislation in order that opportunity may be given his colleagues to speak in words of praise and of eulogy of Mr. RIXEY'S accomplishments and character, and to extol those personal virtues which adorned his noble and gracious life.

JOHN FRANKLIN RIXEY was born at the "Retreat," the family homestead, in the county of Culpeper, near the town of Culpeper, on the 1st day of August, 1854. His father was Presley M. Rixey, a prominent farmer and extensive landowner. His mother's maiden name was Mary Francis Jones. Piedmont, Va., early became the storm center in the war between the States, and thus it was that the father, the better to provide for the protection and safety of his family, purchased a home in the town of Culpeper and removed them thither. It was

there that most of the youth of JOHN F. RIXEY was passed, and there he received his early educational training in the famous Berkeley School. Afterwards he attended Bethel Academy, near Warrenton, Va., for several sessions, and in the summer of 1876 he was graduated from the law school of the University of Virginia with the degree of bachelor of laws. He at once began the practice of his profession at Culpeper, and two years thereafter was elected attorney for the Commonwealth for his county, a position the duties of which he continued to discharge with conspicuous fidelity for twelve consecutive years. In 1881 he married Ellen Barbour, the daughter of the late lieutenant-governor, James Barbour, and a niece of the late John S. Barbour, United States Senator from Virginia. Subsequently he went to reside at "Beauregard," near Brandy Station, the beautiful country seat which continued thereafter to be his permanent residence up to the time of his death. When, in 1896, after a spirited contest, he received the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Eighth Congressional district, which was followed by a triumphant election, he had held no political office, and his personal acquaintance in some of the counties composing the district was quite limited. Subsequently each successive nomination came to him without opposition, and although away from the State during the whole of the campaign of last year, he was returned to the Sixtieth Congress with an overwhelming majority. Prior to his active entrance upon his Congressional duties in December, 1897, Mr. RIXEY assiduously practiced his profession in Culpeper and the adjacent counties of Fauquier, Rappahannock, Madison, Orange, and Louisa, and in the Federal courts and the supreme court of appeals of Virginia. Success seemed assured from the very beginning of his professional career. At first he practiced alone, but later became associated with his brother-in-law, the

Hon. John S. Barbour, and it is believed that the firm of Rixey & Barbour enjoyed a practice among the most extensive and lucrative in the rural districts of the State.

As a lawyer he was conspicuously successful, coming constantly in contact with many of the brightest luminaries in a judicial circuit widely famed for the ability and learning of its practitioners at the bar. Among the illustrious lawyers with whom he contested for primacy may be mentioned such eminent men as ex-Senator Eppa Hunton, Gen. William H. Payne, James V. Brooke, and John Murray Forbes, of Fauquier, Attorney-General James G. Field and Catlett Gibson, of Culpeper, and Governor James L. Kemper, of Madison, all of whom, save only the first, have now passed from the arena of life. That his forensic abilities and legal triumphs should have brought him into an enviable prominence amid such an imposing array of legal talent is the highest tribute which could be paid to his professional standing and reputation. He was a well-groomed, well-trained, and thoroughly equipped lawyer, and upon every proposition submitted to his judgment he brought to bear the well-disciplined force of a matured intellect. His reasoning was forceful and logical, clear, strong, and convincing. As an advocate he achieved success through the compelling force of an inexorable logic rather than by the employment of the meretricious embellishments of speech and rhetorical display. He appealed to the reason rather than to the emotional sensibilities of judge and jury. That he was ever faithful to the noblest traditions of the profession which throughout his career he so conspicuously adorned, and the ethics of which he invariably observed, is the universal testimony of all those with whom he practiced.

But, descended as he was from a long line of practical planters, he inherited a passionate fondness for agriculture, which Wash-

ington, himself a practical agriculturist, declared to be the noblest calling of mankind. Living on a farm, to the direction of which he gave his close personal attention, he was what is known in Virginia as a country lawyer in contradistinction to the city attorney, who has been aptly described as more technical and scientific though less philosophic, more astute, though less broad, than his country brother. Mr. RIXEY was in every high essential a typical farmer-lawyer. Nothing gave him more genuine pleasure than to ride or drive over his broad and fertile fields. Well do I recall with what delight he was wont to watch his herds of sleek, fat cattle as they roamed over the grass-clad hills and through the rich river bottoms of his two magnificent Culpeper County farms.

The late John Randolph Tucker, profound constitutional lawyer, brilliant orator, and great statesman though he was, possessed an intimate acquaintance with that character of lawyer whose life was spent amid rustic scenes and who breathed the pure atmosphere of an inspiring and ennobling pastoral life. Standing in this Hall he pronounced upon one of my predecessors a strikingly beautiful eulogy, in the course of which he declared:

I do not doubt that John Marshall, the most illustrious of the Chief Justices of the United States, under the classical shades of his country seat at Oak Hall, framed the inexorable logic of his argument in the case of Jonathan Robbins and constructed those canons of interpretation in that series of marvelous judgments which laid the foundation of his fame as the greatest expounder of our Federal Constitution.

JOHN F. RIXEY was a farmer and stock raiser as well as a lawyer, and in both capacities he was preeminently successful.

Of his career in this House I shall say little, for the character and the quality of his work done here is known to us all. At all times active and vigilant in the performance of his legislative duties, he was justly regarded as an ideal Representative, and I

venture nothing in saying that the district which honored him with six consecutive elections, and which in turn was by him so signally honored, never had a more efficient, more patriotic, more devoted, and more intelligent Representative. He met every duty and faced every obstacle fearlessly, and ever followed where conscience and judgment led. He had few, if any, enemies, for his directness, frankness, and singleness of purpose so exalted his deeds and gave weight to his words as to compel admiration of the man as the exponent of high civic virtue. His judgment was sound and his view of a situation broad, while he possessed in high degree the comparatively rare power of grasping details. He loved his country with genuine patriotism and served it with unselfish devotion. No man whom I have known during a somewhat extended service in the House of Representatives was ever more assiduously attentive to the public needs of his district or more considerate of the wishes and well-being of his constituents.

How natural, then, that he should have been by them so implicitly trusted, so highly esteemed, and so so universally beloved! It was nothing less than his stern, inflexible, and unyielding sense of duty to country and obligation to constituents which held him to his post of duty in this Hall against the urgent solicitations of family and friends, and when every consideration of a purely personal character demanded he should lay down for the time being his public burdens and official cares. And now he has gone hence forevermore. To no mortal has it ever been given to solve the mysteries of life and death, and so to our blind vision and finite intelligences his untimely taking off may—nay, does—seem premature, but there is a solace in the thought that God knoweth when the appointed work is done; and so He giveth His beloved sleep.

Surely he has not lived in vain whose life has furnished to

the world such a splendid example of fidelity to conscience and devotion to duty. Reverencing always the things that are pure and noble and of good repute, ever exemplary in habit, conduct, and deportment, it was but natural that he should have publicly and openly professed his faith in Christ by connecting himself with one of His churches; and hence it was that some years prior to his death he became a member of the Presbyterian Church. His whole life was singularly beautiful and upright, his faith sublime, and his hope serene.

Of the mere personal attributes of his character and of my close personal and intimate relations to, and my warm and tender affection for, our dear friend I shall not trust myself further to speak, nor could I wish to intrude within the sacred precincts of his beautiful home life or lift the veil which hides the grief of the stricken wife and bereaved children.

But recently I stood beside his open grave and with sorrowful heart and tearful eyes beheld the performance of the last sad rites over his funeral bier in a beautiful cemetery overlooking the town where had been spent the days of his early youth and maturer manhood.

As we contemplate, even faintly and imperfectly as mortals may, the immensity of the universe, the limitless reach and force of Almighty power, and the fathomless depth and graciousness of Almighty love, we may take leave of our friend in the fond hope and soothing faith that somewhere, sometime, the frail and transitory ties of mortal affection broken now may be welded for eternity; that he has but gone before, while we linger here a little longer.

ADDRESS OF MR. HAY, OF VIRGINIA

MR. SPEAKER: I first knew JOHN F. RIXEY in 1879, when he was Commonwealth's attorney for his county, and thereafter until he and I came to this House was thrown with him frequently. As a lawyer Mr. RIXEY ranked high at the Virginia bar, and for many years was one of the leading members of the bar in his and adjoining counties. He was especially strong as an advocate, besides being an adviser of sound judgment, possessing fully the confidence of his large clientage and his fellow-members of the bar. His relations with the bar were always pleasant, and while firm in advocating his own side of the case, he yet was ever ready to give to his adversary that courteous and considerate treatment which marks the able lawyer and gentleman.

His course in Congress has been a most successful one. He has represented his constituency with rare faithfulness and singleness of purpose. No man on this floor was ever more ready than he to respond to the many demands which are constantly made upon Members here. His public services, while not showy, were well recognized by his people and by those who served with him here. His death was most untimely. Taken from a sphere of action in which his usefulness was conspicuous, cut off when his powers were ripest, those of us who survive him wonder at the inscrutable decrees of Providence.

Tho' much is taken, much abides.

While we deeply regret the loss of his presence, his usefulness in this place, his clear judgment, yet there remain to us

the example of his clean life, his upright character, his forceful personality. He was indeed a modest gentleman, one of those spirits whose living made the world better, who in all of his life exemplified the true man, whose purposes were "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield," those great principles which elevate mankind and lead to a higher and better life.

ADDRESS OF MR. WILLIAMS, OF MISSISSIPPI

MR. SPEAKER: Old Virginia, more frequently, perhaps, than any other part of the world, has produced a class of men who have displayed in private and in public life the best characteristics of the old English country gentleman combined with distinctive American traits—sturdiness, conservatism, common sense, and unobtrusive courage in conduct and opinion; acknowledging “duty,” as Washington and Lee did, to be not only “the noblest word in the English language,” but the guiding star of their course in life; acknowledging consideration of the opinions and environment of others as the basis of all healthy and pleasant social relations; regarding the family as the keystone of the structure of human virtue, and looking upon the denial of law-conferred or law-permitted special privileges as the chief function of government, while leaving men otherwise free in their pursuits, industries, and development.

Such men are never sensationalists, though unwaveringly intolerant of private or public wrong. Such men attribute, as a habit of thought, honest motives to others; are in the habit of restraining and governing themselves, and believe therefore in the capacity and right of self-government as inherent in others; are sticklers for the limitation of the powers of political government so as to forestall and prevent the tyranny of majorities and so as to secure the right of individual and local evolutionary progress in freedom, unrestrained except in so far as is necessary to prevent one man or one community or one nation from committing aggression on another. In the family, as in society, they are charitable in nonessentials, while inculcating

essentials of character and outgrowing conduct more by example than by precept, leaving much to the child's enlightened sense of duty and individual development, not attempting to mold other human beings in their mold, believing that wife and child, like each of God's creatures, has the supreme right to live its own life in an atmosphere of guiding and guarding love.

Such men, being just and kind, firm of purpose and conduct as well as tolerant and considerate, moderate in all things, not extreme, self-restrained, not self-assertive, deserve and are sure to have loving and faithful wives, trustful and confiding children, loyal friends, willing servants, few enemies, and the sincere respect of all men. People attach themselves to them without analyzing the motives of their attachment and with or without intimacy of association. Men trust them; children love them; employees serve them "for more than the mere wages' sake." The whole structure of society can rest upon their strong shoulders as on a secure base.

Just such a man, to my personal knowledge, was JOHN F. RIXEV, if his character be limned by an analyst and not a eulogist, though in his case I am both. If all men were like him and his class, the dream of the theoretical anarchist might come true, because there would be little or no need of the physical force of political government. The individual life of each would, in combination, consummate the highest good of all. Justice, equality, and freedom—the sole objects of all right government—would prevail as a natural and unforced outgrowth of the unrestrained development of individuality.

Mr. Speaker, words are poor things; like ourselves, a breath, and with a breath are gone. They can not restore the dead friend to a useful, noble, and unselfish life. They can not comfort the wife, who justly idolized him.

I wish to God they could.

They can not console the children, who will miss his love, example, and guidance. They can serve only to convey to those who loved him my abiding personal knowledge and appreciation of the courtesy, kindness, intelligence, moral courage, honesty, and public usefulness of the Virginia gentleman, who has gone before us and yet has not ceased to be with us.

ADDRESS OF MR. FLOOD, OF VIRGINIA

MR. SPEAKER: "The joys of conquest are the joys of man."

There could be no truer interpretation of universal life and compound of universal history than this aphorism of the poet.

Man reads it one way during life's stress and strain; another way at life's close. There are two arenas of conquest—the one, objective; the other, subjective. The one has ambition for its inspiration and guide; the other, wisdom. The one is the conquest of the world and all it implies; the other, the conquest of self. The one passeth away and is forgotten as a dream; the other is indestructible.

One conquest is of the head; the other of the heart. And almost the last lesson most of us learn is that the heart is higher and nobler than the head; that the heart alone can really interpret life; that it alone can cherish its own intimations and soar with them to the heaven of their fulfillment.

We do not erect monuments in our hearts to those who are "great like Cæsar, stained with blood, but to those who were only great as they were good."

The world is expending treasure in disentombing the memorials of dead and buried empires and deciphering the hieroglyphics in which they are recorded, but the records of a good man's life are writ in letters so plain and imperishable that "he who runs may read."

JOHN F. RIXEY was born in Culpeper County, Va., on August 1, 1854, and reared in the country.

The old Greeks, who seemed to know everything and to anticipate everything, called the earth our mother. Our

brother, whose memory we are met to enshrine in our hearts, drank deep of the gentle and salutary monitions of nature. He loved to contemplate the symbolism of life in the shifting panorama of the seasons, the unfolding of nascent manhood which had its type in the awakened vigor of spring, the stress of life as pictured by the heat and glare of the storms of summer, the fruits of a well-fought fight symbolized in the golden grain and fruitage of autumn, and the repose typified by the long nights and mantling snows of winter. As we read the short and simple annals of his life in the "Official Directory" we see how the love of country dominated him. He writes himself down as "lawyer and farmer."

In due course he was sent to the common schools of his neighborhood, where he was subjected to their discipline and training, and then came the larger outlook and curriculum of Bethel Academy, and last, the strenuous and exigent labors of an academic and professional course at the University of Virginia.

Thus equipped he entered the legal profession and began its practice in his native county. His industry, honesty, learning, and sound judgment soon brought him a lucrative practice, which he conducted actively until he was elected to Congress. During this period he was three times elected prosecuting attorney of Culpeper County, serving with distinguished ability in this responsible position for twelve years.

As a lawyer he ranked high among the people and bar of northern Virginia, a section which has ever been distinguished for its great lawyers. In 1896 he was elected to Congress, and such was the esteem entertained for him by the people of his district that he was reelected five times with practically no opposition.

In his political ideas and methods he has sometimes been

called a partisan. If by this was meant that he sincerely and honestly believed in the principles and purposes of his party and tried by all honorable means to promote the public good by placing its men and measures in control of the Government, the accusation was true, and the term was simply a just tribute to a true and honest man.

It has been the partisan who in all ages of the world and every field of human progress has led the way. Wherever conflicts of opinion have determined the thoughts and actions of mankind, there the well-equipped partisan has been the guiding power and controlling force for good.

During the time he was a Member of the House of Representatives Mr. RIXEY stamped his views and personality upon some of the most important legislation enacted by the American Congress. For nearly nine years he was a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs and aided in some of the most radical and useful reforms in the history of the country, and was no less useful in calling attention to and preventing some of the worst abuses that threatened the nation.

Such, in brief outline, are the unadorned facts of the career of JOHN F. RIXEY. They illustrate a character rounded, integral and complete, and such a character always enlists our interests and challenges our analysis.

No man ever achieved what he achieved unless he had rich native endowments. You can not develop a negative nature. You can not train faculties which do not exist.

Shakespeare, in describing his hero Brutus, says:

His life was gentle; and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, "This was a man!"

And we all know that the fiber of gentleness always enters into the texture of ideal manhood.

Mr. RIXEY was a modest, companionable, ingenious, friendly man.

No man can pass half a century of life, whose maturity is tested by the keen scrutiny of legal and parliamentary environments, and sustain that scrutiny unrebuked and unchallenged, who does not have the roots of his nature struck deep into the granite subsoil of conviction. Just as no oak can fling its branches broadcast to wrestle with the storms whose nutriment is not drawn from the limestone and iron of the earth.

Mr. RIXEY was trained in the austere and inflexible doctrines of the Presbyterian Church. He sat under the ministry of a church whose clergy are compelled to sustain the rigid and protracted tests of both academic and theological institutes; a church which has never shrunk from facing the conception of truth whether that truth were pleasant or unpalatable. But the fabric of his faith was gentleness and brotherly kindness.

When a man has attained to the possession of these attributes he has, indeed, experienced the highest "joys of conquest."

I have often read with pleasure this passage from Lord Bacon:

The poet saith excellently well: "It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore and to see ships tossed upon the sea; a pleasure to stand in the window of a castle and to see a battle and the adventures thereof below; but no pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth, where the air is always clear and serene, and to see the errors and wanderings and mists and tempests in the vale below. Certainly it is heaven upon earth to have a man's mind move in clarity, rest in Providence, and turn upon the poles of truth."

And so we see how the life of JOHN F. RIXEY, turning upon these poles, made him true in all the relations of life. And we can safely leave him there.

May it be said of all of us, as we can say it of him:

He wore the white flower of a blameless life.

ADDRESS OF MR. WILLIAM W. KITCHIN, OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to add the simple tribute of a high regard and a warm personal friendship to the memory of the late Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY. If length of life under the guidance of Providence were always commensurate with one's virtues, he would have survived more than threescore years and ten. If life is to be measured by virtue, by the development of the lovable and noble qualities of heart and mind and by obedience to their suggestions, then his life was long and full, though his departure was in middle age, or manhood's prime, as we reckon our periods.

Entering Congress together ten years ago, for the last eight years serving together on the Committee on Naval Affairs, of which he was a member before my assignment to it, sharing the same views upon nearly every question that has divided that committee, we became closely associated in our public service, more closely than I have been with any other Representative. Probably no Member had better opportunity of knowing his arduous work and patriotic zeal than myself. In my judgment, and I say it deliberately and after consideration, no man during my membership of this body has brought to the service of his country a more thorough patriotism, more unselfish loyalty to public interest, or a more incorruptible integrity, nor has anyone followed the path of duty as he saw it more unfalteringly and courageously than our deceased friend. He was a type of the splendid Representative; of strong heart, brave spirit, clear intellect; a man of conscience, courage, and ability; modest but alert, unassuming but energetic, tolerant but positive.

Ability is an essential of every great Representative, but integrity is the great essential of the best Representative. In this age of seductive allurements, under which men sometimes become negligent of public interests, and of strong temptations, under which they sometimes become unfaithful, a people should be regarded as happily performing their duty to themselves and the Republic in sending to a legislative body a Representative of both the capacity and the character of Mr. RIXEY. For many years he held the commission of a great, proud, and intelligent constituency residing within the shadow of this Capitol, and as that commission fell from his hands on the 9th of February it was as unstained as the spotless snow that then enveloped his district.

There has been no session of recent Congresses when divisions have not appeared on this floor upon matters coming from the Naval Affairs Committee. These divisions have not been upon propositions vital to the Navy. It is both Democratic and Republican to have a strong Navy of the best men and best material sufficient for the needs of our great country. Men in both parties have differed and will probably continue to differ as to the requisite magnitude of the Navy from time to time, depending largely upon each one's estimate of the probabilities of war and his confidence in our position and resources, all recognizing the necessity for the public of a proper Navy and the injustice upon the public of an unnecessarily large one. The divisions have been upon subsidiary matters, such as the number and kinds of new ships, how to obtain them, at what price, and how to obtain armor and armament, the establishment and improvement of navy-yards and stations, methods of economy and development, and other matters of secondary importance to the primary proposition of the creation and maintenance of a sufficient Navy. Though these subsidiary matters have some-

times involved political principles and aroused partisan discussion, yet, as a rule, the divisions upon matters from the Naval Committee have not been partisan. They have, however, produced much controversy and frequent debates. In these Mr. RIXEY was often a leading participant and always proved himself well equipped, accurate, ready, forceful, and entirely conversant with the subject at issue. He was an active, vigilant, vigorous, and candid antagonist, who never avoided the real point at stake and never struck below the belt.

His personal life was clean and his language pure. I never heard a profane or vulgar expression from his lips and never knew him to do an act his pastor would not have approved. Immorality and vice received no encouragement from his speech or conduct. By precept and example he contributed to the virtue and morality of every circle he entered. I never knew him until the maturity of his powers and character, but a knowledge of him then necessarily involves much insight into his earlier years. When one beholds a great oak he knows the rich ingredients that made it, in what soil the roots were nourished in its youth, what storms it has resisted, and what winters of adversity it has endured. From our deceased friend's strong, fixed character of manhood one can easily conceive the healthy environment of his boyhood, the various temptations that had in vain beat about his pathway, the steady application of his mind and heart to the duties of life, and the firm, fundamental, moral character that had controlled him in his constant progress in the esteem of his fellow-men.

I had the honor to be one of the committee of the House that attended the burial at Culpeper. In the funeral procession we observed that all of the business houses were closed out of respect for the occasion. A profound sorrow was over the little city. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the snow

covering the earth, a large concourse of his constituents, friends, and neighbors gathered in the cemetery to pay a last sad tribute to his mortal remains. The great outpouring of the people from far and near, who knew him well, bespoke the high esteem in which all classes held him. Among them he had lived without reproach. Before them he had established a right to the high title of a Christian gentleman, and those who assembled at his grave in loving remembrance of his life and character honored themselves in the service they rendered to his memory. And they seemed to realize, as we do, that his death is a loss to his State and to our common country.

Mr. Speaker, the kind expressions which we utter to-day in his memory are necessarily incomplete, for words are inadequate to express what the heart contains when we contemplate the death of such a man. In addition to the many pleasant recollections which I shall always cherish of him, I shall have the comforting thought that it is well with him. Knowing him as I did, I am glad to think that as the remorseless enemy approached he had no fear and his faith was strong, and when that enemy conquered his body and led his spirit to the dividing line, I doubt not that the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother" was with him in the valley of the shadow and bestowed upon him the crown of immortality on the other side.

ADDRESS OF MR. GLASS, OF VIRGINIA

Mr. SPEAKER: As a surviving colleague of the late JOHN F. RIXEY, I desire, in a word, to indicate how tenderly I regard his memory. In my humble estimation no Representative in Congress better deserved, when he died, the kindly tributes to his personal worth which we are accustomed to pay here than the deceased Member from the Eighth Virginia district. Mr. RIXEY was a man of solid character and superior intelligence. He had good preparation for the active pursuit of public affairs, which so soon engaged his attention, and his exceptional talents made it certain that his aspirations must enjoy a large measure of fulfillment. His early obligations as a trusted official of the State were discharged with such efficiency and fidelity as to merit the higher distinction that was bestowed upon him by his community when he was sent to be a Member of this House; and I am sure we will all agree that his service here, extending over a period of ten years, was characterized by a devotion and an industry that entitled him to the confidence and esteem with which his people so richly and so repeatedly honored him. His particular usefulness to his own district and his cheerful readiness to serve his own constituents quickly expanded into an ideal representative relation to his State and country, so that all Virginia mourns his death as a distinct bereavement of the Commonwealth, and the nation has cause to lament the loss of a diligent and patriotic servant.

Sprung from a good ancestry and reared in an atmosphere of refinement, nobody better understood, and no life was more surely conformed to, that philosophy which teaches that the well-being of the soul depends only on what we are and that

nobleness of character is nothing else but the love of good and scorn of evil. Familiar with the niceties of social intercourse, and not insensible to the value of real tact, nevertheless the personal and official transactions of Mr. RIXEY were distinguished by a frankness that knew no concealment and a courage that calculated not consequences. Though singularly unobtrusive by nature, he never evaded a duty nor sought to shift a responsibility. Tolerant of opposing opinions, he was firm and forceful in the assertions of his own convictions, and yielded only when it seemed best for his country that he should. His fine qualities of unselfishness and his complete zeal for the public interest as he conceived it were remarkably exhibited in his long service on the Committee on Naval Affairs of this House.

My intimacy with Mr. RIXEY did not extend to his fireside. That was my misfortune and no fault of his hospitality; but there is no need to draw aside the curtain and peer into the sanctity of the saddened home to tell that he was a devoted son, a gentle husband, an affectionate father, a loyal brother. He must have been these to have been so modest a gentleman, so true a friend, so brave a man, so patriotic a representative of his people.

ADDRESS OF MR. FOSS, OF ILLINOIS

MR. SPEAKER: I desire to add my tribute to that of others on the life of our late colleague.

Singularly enough, while the naval appropriation bill was under consideration in the House, Mr. RIXEY, who had always been a member of the committee during his Congressional service, died. He had always been one of the active members of the committee and had taken a great interest in naval affairs, both in the committee and in the debates on the floor of the House.

This is the first death that has occurred on the committee for some time, the last being that of the late Amos J. Cummings, five years ago. Mr. RIXEY was a man who was intensely loyal to his constituents. He served them day and night, and the many large public improvements which he secured for his district are a testimonial of his indefatigable industry and loyalty to his constituents.

Mr. RIXEY was a conservative man. He was not easily carried away by the whim or fancy of the hour. His whole nature was embedded in the solid rock of conservatism. He would oftentimes stand alone, unmoved by the persuasions of his colleagues and friends.

Above all, he was a man who had the courage of his convictions. If there is any one characteristic that has shone through his Congressional service here in this body it was that of his splendid courage. He not only dared to think for himself, but he dared to fight for what he believed to be right. Frequently upon this floor he led the charge against some provision in the naval bill which he did not feel that he could

support, and whenever he led he led with all the splendid fire and determination of a general on the field of battle.

He was a man also of intense honesty of purpose and sincerity. He was one whom it took some time to thoroughly know. Though a man of pleasant demeanor and easy to approach, yet he was not a man who showed up his real worth on first acquaintance. He was frequently misunderstood, but upon intimate acquaintance he unfolded a wealth of sterling virtues which commanded the respect and admiration of all within the circle.

His death has been a great loss to this House. His Congressional service has been an honor to the State and the nation, and his memory will be cherished through the coming years.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCCALL, OF MASSACHUSETTS

MR. SPEAKER: I feel it my duty to add one word expressing, I fear very inadequately, the high opinion that I had of our late colleague JOHN F. RIXEY. I am led to do this from my personal regard for him and from the relations of the States of Massachusetts and Virginia, and also from my association with Virginia Representatives upon this floor. These two noble Commonwealths have been associated together since before the foundation of this Government, and, with the exception of an unfortunate period which was necessary fully to establish our Government, they have emulated each other in everything that has contributed to our national glory. And I trust and believe they will continue to engage in that noble rivalry.

Then, I have been very closely associated with the Representatives of Virginia upon this floor. During my first term of service it was my privilege to be upon the Committee on Elections, of which that astute and able lawyer, that kindly gentleman, and that fair-minded man, Governor O'Ferrall, was the chairman. Afterwards for many years I was associated in service upon the Committee on Ways and Means with the distinguished gentleman who is now governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. And I am proud to say that I number among my friends many who have been or now are members of the able delegation from Virginia.

And so I feel that I should say one word here concerning that faithful and sterling Representative in whose memory this service is held. It adds something to our regard for representative government that a man like JOHN F. RIXEY should be sent here—a kindly man, an able man, a man who

combined the energy and force of an intellectual fighter with the urbanity of a gentleman. It would be creditable to any constituency in this country that it should send such a man here. And so, Mr. Speaker, I desire to say simply that I had a very high regard for him personally. I have watched him upon this floor, I have marked the force with which he spoke, and I have noticed his modesty and lack of all obtrusiveness. But modest though he may have been, we had no difficulty in detecting in him the essence of true manhood and that living spark of which Wordsworth speaks when he says:

If thou indeed derive thy light from heaven,
Then, to the measure of that heaven-born light,
Shine, Poet, in thy place, and be content.
The stars preeminent in magnitude,
And they that from the zenith dart their beams
(Visible though they be to half the earth,
Though half a sphere be conscious of their brightness),
Are yet of no diviner origin,
No purer essence, than the one that burns,
Like an untended watch fire, on the ridge
Of some dark mountain; or than those which seem
Humbly to hang, like twinkling winter lamps,
Among the branches of the leafless trees.

ADDRESS OF MR. DE ARMOND OF MISSOURI

MR. SPEAKER: When JOHN FRANKLIN RIXEY died the Republic lost a faithful servant, Virginia lost one of her noblest citizens, all of us who were acquainted with him lost a true and reliable friend, and his family suffered a loss which words can not describe.

Since I have been a Member of this House death has been busy in the Virginia delegation. Out of it have died Barbour and Lee, Epes, Otey, Wise, and RIXEY—one from the Senate and five from the House.

Shortly after the termination of their membership in this body six others with whom I served passed over the Great Divide—Lawson, Edmonds, Meredith, Turner, Walker, and O'Ferrall. So in the period of a little less than eight Congresses twelve Members from Virginia have died, six of them out of active service in the Congress and six lately retired from it. I believe this mortality in the Congressional representation of the Old Dominion is perhaps unmatched in the history of the Government.

JOHN F. RIXEY was a man, as those of us who were acquainted with him well know, of the very highest type and of the noblest characteristics. He was modest, gentle, resolute, conscientious. He possessed the substantial abilities so necessary for a successful career here and elsewhere, and they were associated with a modesty truly charming and a courage entirely unobtrusive, but equal to the requirements of any occasion. He came of a fine line of ancestry, out of the citizenship of a fine old Commonwealth where character and manhood, and

the sturdy as well as the gentle virtues that characterize both, are estimated and appraised quite as highly, certainly, as anywhere else in the Union or in the world.

It seems to us, measuring human life as it is ordinarily measured, that he died prematurely and in his prime; but who knows when the right time to die has arrived or when it will arrive? Who knows whether it is not really better to fall in the prime and meridian of life, when those who esteem us remember us as we are at our best, than to fade and finally sink to rest in its evening, when the shadows are long drawn and when almost everything that makes life attractive and marks for us its achievements has long since ended? Old age often is weakness without its winsomeness; it is childhood without the charm of childhood. The memory dwells upon those who have departed as we knew them just before the end, the time of their departure. Mr. RIXEY will dwell in our memories and the memories of others who knew him as a man fully equipped and strong and ready for the battle of life; a man full of achievements in the contest. Perhaps, after all, when the shock is over and when grief has adjusted itself to the blow, and when time has effaced or dimmed the traces of the great sorrow that death always must bring—perhaps, after all, it is better that he shall dwell in our memories and in the memories of his own dearly loved ones as a man in his prime and in his glory, rather than as the fading, vanishing remnant of a life past its usefulness and its power and lingering only, waiting only for the inevitable summons that comes in weakness and closes in the night when the stars have burned out, when nothing remains to illumine the sky with a suggestion of the halted power of manhood. The star that is blotted suddenly from the sky leaves in the memory of him who gazed upon it in its splendor a picture of a magnificent light, but the star that

pales and pales and pales and finally flickers out can leave no memory so well worth cherishing.

Representative RIXEY was an excellent type of what has been known and described as the "country lawyer." The country lawyer still exists and will exist in our land for many days, and, let us hope, many ages, but not so numerous in the comparison as in the former time.

In the early days of the Republic all our lawyers, with but few exceptions, were country lawyers, bred in the country, living in the country, identified with the country, following the pursuits of the countryman. We have arrived now at the stage of progress or development, or at least of advancing population, when, in large measure, professional men are gathered together in cities. The professional man of the city is essentially different from the professional man of the country. He is more familiar with books, he is further along in scientific pursuits and developments, but he also is farther from nature. In a broad sense he knows less of men and their wants and rights and feelings and aspirations. The country lawyer, if he be a man of ability and of character—and if he be not he can not succeed—comes to live in close touch and in full understanding with the people among whom he dwells. Their wants are his wants; their aspirations are his aspirations; their triumphs are his triumphs; their sorrows and their struggles are his sorrows and his struggles; their life is his life. He communes with nature more and with books less. He learns more of general principles and less of special cases and special instances. He devotes himself more to broad thought and broad reasoning and broad philosophic principles, and less to what this man or that man, in this position or that position, here or there, now or at some other time, said upon some question. He does not look particularly for some case that is in point, but he digs deep for

fundamental principles; he looks far into the philosophy of things and thence deduces his conclusions; and upon this foundation, out of the materials thus gathered, he rears his superstructure strong and symmetrical and, above all things else, natural. This man of whom I now speak dwelt in the country, and was of the country. A member of the learned profession and learned in it, he was a practical farmer, interested in all that concerns the people engaged in the tillage of the soil and in the care of their flocks and herds. He was therefore, by natural development, a broad man in thought, purpose, and deed; a charitable man; in action, a plain, practical man. He looked at things about him with the clear eye of experience. He read the book of nature as it was spread out before him, and there learned lessons far more valuable than man has traced in any book man has written or will ever write.

It seems strange, in this day of progress and advancement in science and in discovery, that there are still some diseases so formidable, so deadly, so all-pervading, so unconquerable that the strongest go down before them as readily as the weakest. One of the most formidable of all diseases is the "white death," the plague of consumption, to which our friend fell a victim. In all the charities of philanthropy, in all the schemes of benevolent purposes, he will be among the greatest of benefactors who shall discover the cause of and the sure cure for this deadly disease, which strikes down manhood in its prime, which spares neither age nor youth, which devastates the earth, and marches unconquered through the ages. Let us hope that human science, and perseverance, and research may bring us something that will stay the ravages of this fell destroyer.

Never upon one of these occasions, or upon any occasion where we face death, can we rid ourselves—nor would we if we could—of the dreadful charm, of the fateful mystery, that

ever hangs around human life. We come into the world without our own volition; we go out when, how, where, none—no more the wisest than the most foolish—can tell. We are here for a little while or for a comparatively long period, and yet how short is even the longest life when contrasted with the cycles of time and with the endless ages of eternal being. Life is a great mystery, a mystery all through, a mystery in every part—in its inception, in its progress, in its ending.

As we gaze into the grave where loved ones are laid, mind, spirit, imagination, hope fly far beyond the tomb, into pictured realms we know not where, by means we know not what. So it was when we laid our friend away to rest. So it was when we stood around his open grave in the snow-covered ground of the beautiful cemetery where he now reposes. So it is now, so it will be when we in our turn are laid away to rest in mother earth, and so it will be most assuredly until the career of humanity is ended and man no longer is a pilgrim going up and down over the surface of this planet. People reason about it, consult others about it, indulge in predictions about it, search Holy Writ concerning it. Yet all of it is mystery. Only the eye of faith can pierce the distant future. Only upon the wings of hope can we traverse the space which intervenes between this life and the life beyond. Every man's hope, every man's aspiration, every pulsation of the human heart tends to nourish a conviction that there must be a life beyond this, that this can not be the end of everything, that there must be another sphere of existence, sublimated out of the human, in which our being shall be endless, unclouded, unmarked by sorrow or care, where the sun shall eternally shine, where life shall have no end. In this faith we live through this earth life; to this we cling in our moments of darkness and when despair would settle upon us like a pall.

Upon this we rest when threatened with earthly extinction. It is our hope, the star whose beams pierce through the clouds and fog and darkness when our loved ones go hence. Even if it could be demonstrated that this hope is without basis, that its aspirations have nothing upon which to rest, it would be cruelty to know the truth and to reveal it. We rest upon the hope, we dwell in the promise, and when this life is over, be the ending soon or be it remote, be it glorious or be it the reverse, we all go down in the hope that there shall be an awakening beyond the tomb, and that the spirit which dominates and animates us here, which triumphs over flesh and over distance and circumstance, which soars upon its wings of faith and builds with its power of genius beyond the clouds will survive when the earthly tabernacle lies low in the dust from which it was originally created.

ADDRESS OF MR. LAMB, OF VIRGINIA

MR. SPEAKER: For the fourth time in twice as many years the Virginia delegation in this House are called on to pay tribute to a departed colleague. Truly in the midst of life we are confronted by death. Death loves a shining mark, and in the demise of JOHN F. RIXEY it found one. An able and conscientious Representative, a loyal citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, a devoted husband, father, and brother has passed from earth to the spirit land.

It is no exaggeration to say that few Members of this House during the past decade commanded more respect and admiration than did our colleague, for he possessed qualities of head and heart that endeared him to all who were thrown with him in the committee rooms and on the floor.

Had this blow fallen to one of the older Members of our delegation we would have said: "This is but nature's law; the machinery that sustains the mystery we call life has failed to perform its appointed task and the no less mystery of death is the natural consequence."

According to man's allotted time, years of great influence were before him; years in which to lay up knowledge and render service to those who loved, honored, and trusted him; years in which to study the science of government and apply its principles; years in which to study human nature and work out plans for the betterment of his fellows; yea, more, for him personally years in which to rear and direct the young and tender plants that gathered around his hearthstone; years of love and care for the one who brought life to his life and peace to his home.

Without the showy qualities of the orator, he possessed what we all know is more valuable in a Representative—sound judgment and patient attention to the details of the work. Through this he reached results here that fully met the demands of his constituents and would have insured him continued service as long as he desired to be a Representative in Congress.

The Commonwealth of Virginia can ill afford to lose, in the prime of life, such a man as was our deceased comrade. The people outside of the Eighth district knew and appreciated him. In the city of Richmond several years ago he addressed a very cultivated audience, and as I passed through the crowd I heard men say: "That speech was worth listening to. Some day that man will be governor of the State."

I had a better opportunity, possibly, than any other of our delegation of judging as to the estimate put upon him by the people of the Eighth district, for I canvassed several of his counties in 1898, and since that time have spoken frequently in various places in the district. I did not meet a man who spoke of him in any but the highest terms, and all seemed perfectly satisfied with the valuable service he gave them. If he had enemies—and who has served ten years in Congress without making some—I never met one. The opinion held of him in every county, so far as I have been able to learn, was strongly voiced in the Alexandria Sunday Times of yesterday a week ago. After summing up the work done for that city, the writer said:

What he has done for this city and county he has done for every other county in his district, and has never failed to aid anything that tended to advance the interest of his mother State. Words are inadequate to do justice to this genial, high-toned, honorable Virginia gentleman, now laid beneath the soil of old Virginia, whom he loved so well and served so faithfully.

This would be a fitting epitaph on his tomb, where he sleeps beneath the sod of old Culpeper County, where his boyhood

days were spent as he watched the surging tide of battle roll over the red hills and lovely plains of his native county. He was a lad of nine summers when as a man of 22 years of age I led a squadron of troop in a deadly fray through the streets of Culpeper. He grew to manhood amidst the struggles and trials of a people who lost all save their unquenchable spirit and unstained honor. No wonder that he possessed his full share of both and that they fed his young heart with noble resolves and fired his soul with a determination to fight life's battles as bravely as he had seen men face the mortal perils of the battlefield.

Our colleague and friend accomplished more in two decades than most men of equal, if not better, opportunities, have done in twice that time. Witness an honorable and efficient service as Commonwealth's attorney of his county for twelve years. See and enjoy, as I have, the culture and refinement and comfort of one of the best-ordered and most hospitable homes in all Virginia. Turn the pages of the Congressional Record and see his spirit, character, and manhood imprinted wherever duty impelled, or an entirely fitting and never a made opportunity presented itself.

If in a little over two decades he had accomplished this much, what might he not have achieved had robust health and long life been given unto him? We need not speculate. The end came. The shock was severe to most of us.

Of his faith I need not speak. I have reason to know that it was strong and abiding. It served him well when trials came. It accounts in part for his popularity in this House and elsewhere. It had been growing with his years. The spirit speaks when the lips are closed. We can not conceal our inner life from others, try all we may. The laws of the spirit are as fixed as those of gravitation.

My personal relations with and my attachment for JOHN F. RIXEY, might be best told—if these need be told at all in this presence—by reference to my correspondence. Letters from my close friends and relatives, and even comparative strangers, were filled with words of condolence for me personally, and expressions of regret and sympathy at the loss I had sustained in the death of one of whom they had heard me speak so often and so highly.

I am comforted by the thought that these words of praise I here express in one form or another I uttered of him while he lived. I shall love to recall his form and features, and during the active years that are left me I shall now and then visit the spot where we laid him to rest.

Peace to his memory. May a kind Providence guard and protect those who directly bind his memory to earth.

FURTHER ACTION OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I move that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House take a recess until 12 o'clock noon.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes a. m.) the House was declared in recess.

The recess having expired, at 12 o'clock noon the House was called to order by the Speaker.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

SATURDAY, *February 9, 1907.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. W. J. Browning, its Chief Clerk, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Representative from the State of Virginia, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

The VICE-PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions of the House of Representatives, which were read:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 9, 1907.

Resolved, That the House has heard with deep regret and profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, a Representative from the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of seventeen Members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, may be appointed to attend the funeral at Culpeper, Va., and that the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Jones, Mr. Hay, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Flood, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Glass, Mr. Slemp, Mr. Southall, Mr. Saunders, of Virginia; Mr. Foss, of Illinois; Mr. Meyer, of Louisiana; Mr. William W. Kitchin, of North Carolina; Mr. Gregg, of Texas; Mr. Williams, of Mississippi; Mr. De Armond, of Missouri; Mr. Burton, of Delaware, and Mr. Slayden, of Texas, members of the committee on the part of the House.

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. President, this forenoon, as the Members of the two Houses of Congress were assembling for their daily task, intelligence came that the Hon. JOHN FRANKLIN RIXEY, who for five terms has represented the Eighth district of Virginia in the House of Representatives, had this morning departed this life at his residence in this city.

I move, Mr. President, that this body, having received official notification of his death, adopt the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Senator from Virginia proposes resolutions, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Representative from the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of seven Senators be appointed by the Vice-President to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions submitted by the Senator from Virginia.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The VICE-PRESIDENT appointed as the committee on the part of the Senate, under the second resolution, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Taliaferro, Mr. Dick, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Ankeny, Mr. Flint, and Mr. Clarke of Arkansas.

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until Monday, February 11, 1907, at 12 o'clock meridian.

WEDNESDAY, *February 27, 1907.*

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. President, I take this occasion to give notice that on Saturday afternoon, before a recess or adjournment, I shall ask the Senate to adopt appropriate resolutions and to take becoming action concerning the late Representative JOHN F. RIXEY, who recently died, and whose funeral has been attended by a committee of this body.

SATURDAY, *March 2, 1907.*

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions of the House, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 25, 1907.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Member of this House from the State of Virginia, and in pursuance of the order heretofore made, the business of the House be now suspended to enable his associates to pay fitting tribute to his high character and distinguished services.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be, and he is hereby, instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. President, I beg leave to offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The resolutions were read and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN F. RIXEY, late a Representative from the State of Virginia.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended in order that a fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ADDRESS OF MR. DANIEL, OF VIRGINIA

Mr. PRESIDENT: When two days hence the Fifty-ninth Congress shall cease and the term of the Sixtieth Congress shall begin, there will be names accredited to the new roll which will have none to answer thereto. Death has been busy in this Congress. Four Senators and five Representatives have ceased to be. This day three weeks ago JOHN FRANKLIN RIXEY, of Culpeper, Va., Representative of the Eighth district, was numbered amongst them. He was the able and effective Representative of that district for ten years. He had been chosen, although absent from the State by reason of his sickness, to succeed himself. No need for his presence. The people knew him and were for him. The voice of the Ruler of the Universe has overruled the voice of the people and has disposed the purposes of man.

Mr. RIXEY was born in Culpeper, near the county seat which bears the county name, on the 1st day of August, 1854. He died in this city on the 9th day of February of the present year, at the home of his brother, Surgeon-General Rixey, of the Navy. His body, attended by the committee of the two Houses of Congress which had been appointed to pay to him the last honors, and followed by many mourning friends, was borne to his home and consigned to his native dust.

There is a brief sketch of him in the Congressional Directory, which recites as follows: That he was educated in the common schools, at Bethel Academy, and the University of Virginia; is a lawyer and farmer; was Commonwealth's attorney for Culpeper County twelve years; was elected to the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh, and Fifty-eighth Congresses, and reelected to the Fifty-ninth Congress, receiving 7,986 votes to 2,443 for his opponent. To this account should be added that he was reelected to succeed himself at the Congressional election of November, 1906.

For five terms he had faithfully served his people with diligence and with successful attention to every duty committed to his hands.

It is probable that there is no district in the United States, unless it be the Congressional district of Maryland which adjoins the District of Columbia, which has so many affairs to be attended to in Washington as has this Eighth district of Virginia. Many of its people have located here. Many who are engaged in Washington on official or other business have located there. Many of them find employment here by reason of their proximity and convenient access. The Representative of the district has therefore entailed upon him multifarious duties such as are but lightly shared by Representatives from distant places.

With patience, with alacrity, with faithful and affectionate regard for his people, as well as with a loyal and devout sense of obligation to his country, Mr. RIXEY bestowed a constant and unrelaxing devotion to his tasks.

The feelings of a past generation have died out save in honor of the past. There is nothing of public sentiment in Virginia that is not in unison with the United States. Congressman RIXEY, though in boyhood he knew war in its sternest and

bitterest ways, represented to-day and to-morrow as much as ever his brother, who heads the Medical Corps of our Naval Department.

As a member of the Naval Committee of the House he distinguished himself by his knowledge of naval affairs, and he was always to be found at the post of duty. His interest in and attention to agriculture led to the measure that established the experimental agricultural station in Alexandria County, just across the Potomac River.

Of a fine mind, well trained in the schools, and with an earnest and energetic nature which was tireless and ceaseless in pursuing the ends it aimed at, few men have been so concentrative in their endeavors or so successful in their attainment.

His boyhood was spent at the very focus of the active scenes of war. From his father's house, where were the headquarters of the Federal Army in the town of Culpeper, General Grant, on the 3d of May, 1864, rode forth to the battle of the Wilderness. During the four years while the storm of conflict raged over northern Virginia scenes of swift recurring battles were familiar to his eyes and the diapason of the cannonade familiar to his ears. When war ended, the territory which he represented and that adjoining had come to be known as "the Flanders of the War."

When the surviving Confederate soldiers returned to their homes, Maj. Albert G. Smith, who had been wounded in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, and who I have heard described by his comrades as standing on the heights with the hilt of a sword in his hand, which had been broken by some hurtling missile of the battle, established the Bethel Academy near the town of Warrenton, in Fauquier. As Lee went to the head of Washington College, which became Washington and Lee University, so Major Smith now devoted himself to training the

boys of the countryside in the ways of peace. Not forgetting that peace must always be prepared for war, and instinctively knowing that "to ride, to shoot, and to tell the truth" was the maxim of his people for the instruction of youth not less than the ancient Persian, he made it a military as well as a classical and mathematical academy. At one time one of his tutors was Major Jenkins, of South Carolina, afterwards distinguished at Santiago, and many of his boys went forth with the Army of the United States to the Spanish war.

In the Berkley School and in this academy young RIXEY received his early education, and then repaired to the University of Virginia and to the study of law.

He was ere long elected Commonwealth's attorney for Culpeper County, and then commenced the Congressional career which has been so unhappily closed by his death.

For scenic and for dramatic things and for those which attract conspicuous notice, Mr. RIXEY displayed but little taste. His was a businesslike and practical mind, that looked to the accomplishment of results rather than to ostentation or parade on the road to them.

He was a lover of the country, and lived at a beautiful home near Brandy Station, which overlooks the field of the great cavalry battle of June 9, 1863, between Stuart and Pleasanton. A third of the war was fought in Virginia. The Eighth and the adjoining districts, with that around Richmond and Petersburg, were its centers. Within view of the summit on which stands his home are many other battlefields and scenes identified with the great strife which on each side made ambition virtue.

As success came to him he increased his holdings of land. A farm was to him the spot of most attractiveness. On the

scarred Manassas field, scene of great wrestlings, as well as in his native county of Culpeper, he rejoiced to see the grass grow and his flocks and herds feed amidst scenes of pastoral beauty.

His was a wholesome as well as an active and busy life. The domesticity of his nature manifested itself in his pursuits and aspirations whenever public cares relaxed.

He was an able lawyer; well read in the books and well practiced in his profession. He established high rank at a bar where he was brought into competition and conflict with many of the brightest and ablest minds of the State.

When he entered politics, he soon became a leader of the people. The successive times that he was chosen to represent them here attest their fidelity to him even as his own career attests his fidelity to them.

If deep conviction, thorough devotion, and the enthusiasm of service make the partisan, such, then, must Mr. RIXEY be counted. But he was not a man offensive either in words or ways to those opposed to him. Standing for the independence and honesty of opinion, for free action and free speech, he respected those whose opinions were different from his own. He observed the wisdom that comes from the heart. He obeyed the wise counsel so well given by Allen G. Thurman, "the old Roman," when he said "Keep a civil tongue in your mouth."

Such is the characteristic of all well-mannered, self-respecting, and well-poised men, who remember that by the very truths on which their own rights are founded rest also side by side with them the equal rights of others. "So use thine own as not to hurt another" is the maxim of our common law, borrowed from the broad-minded and deep-hearted jurisprudence of ancient Rome, that lays its inflexible injunction on the tongue as well

as on the hand of man and keeps him within the bounds of his own domain in the moralities, decencies, and civilities of life as well as in his dealings with respect to material things.

Partisan he may have been—most of us are—but he never trenched by word upon the character, as he did not by deed upon the belongings, of another.

The Eighth district of Virginia is one of the most historic regions of the United States. If its history were written, it would involve the writing of the history of the whole country from its colonial days to the present time.

When one considers even the names of the counties which Mr. RIXEY represented, he sees in them the names drawn from memory of the motherland rather than from the new inspirations of the Republic.

Culpeper County, of which he was a native and a resident, was formed in 1748 and named after Lord Culpeper, one of the colonial governors of Virginia.

Fairfax County dates its origin to 1742 and bears the name of Lord Fairfax, who held an immense grant from the English Crown. Fauquier County separated from Prince William in 1759, and was called after Charles Fauquier, colonial governor from 1758 to 1767. King George County, formed in 1720 from Richmond County, takes its name from the English King. Loudoun County, formed in 1757 from Fairfax, gets its name from the Earl of Loudoun, who commanded the British forces during the latter part of the French war. Prince William County, named after an English prince, was created from Stafford and King George. Stafford, formerly a part of Westmoreland, was formed in 1675. Louisa, created in 1742 from Hanover, and Alexandria, the newcomer—all alike bear the ancient names. I have not examined to see, but, unless in New England, I doubt if there is another Congressional district

in the United States which in all its counties save one—in this case that of Alexandria—bears the old colonial names which they bore when independence was declared. And Alexandria County has the fine flavor of the ancient days, which it acquired from the venerable city which was the home of both Washington and Lee.

The traits of the fatherland are in them. But they are Americans all; founders and lovers of freedom as the greatest of human possessions; patriotic to the core; upholders of home rule, but filled with the splendid aspiration of the reunited nation.

They are lovers of the land, and on isolated plantations they have planted pleasant homes. They have taken part not only in the Indian wars that antedated the Revolution, but in every war with which this country has been identified. I noted not long since, in traversing some of the reminiscences of Culpeper, that George Washington was surveyor of that county when he was a youth of 17, in the service of Lord Fairfax, making his own living and going out into the adventures of life before he had yet become a man. In the records of that county there is this entry:

20th July, 1749. George Washington, Gent, produced a commission from the president and members of William and Mary College, appointing him to be surveyor of this county, which was read, and thereupon he took the usual oaths to His Majesty's person and Government and took and subscribed the abjuration oath and test, and then took the oath of surveyor, according to law.

Four of our great Presidents are identified with its history. Washington's tomb is in Fairfax. Madison lived and rests in Orange. Monroe for a time had his seat at Oak Hill, in Loudoun. Zachary Taylor was born in Orange.

When the Revolution broke out the Culpeper minute men made a name for themselves, not only in the swift patriotism

with which they responded to the call of Governor Patrick Henry, but by their conduct upon the field of battle. The Culpeper minute men turned out for war the last time in the Spanish war. From the day of the Revolution to this hour they have always been ready to respond at a moment's warning to their country's call. They float on their flag the picture of a rattlesnake, with the legend "Don't tread on me!" Those Culpeper minute men and the men of the adjoining counties were soon formed into a regiment. Lawrence Taliaferro, a kinsman of the distinguished Senator now representing Florida in this body, was its colonel.

Stevens was its lieutenant-colonel, afterwards a general. Thomas Marshall, father of the great Chief Justice, was its major, and serving as a lieutenant was the incipient Chief Justice himself.

There is a story told of this regiment at the battle of the Great Bridge, which I like to refer to, because it is characteristic of the great people who inhabit the region of Virginia along the Potomac, and which those going westwardly in the State and beyond it have carried with them. This regiment encountered in the battle of the Great Bridge a regiment of the British regulars. They were behind earthworks, and when the British regulars charged them they were beaten back. Swift to heal, as quick and steady to fight, the Virginians leaped over the breastworks and helped to bind the wounds which they had made.

The people of this whole section are high spirited, chivalrous, brave, quick to resent insult, firm and strong in resistance to wrong, but at the same time one of the sweetest-tempered and most hospitable people that one could meet upon a summer's day. They are lovers of the land. They rejoice in the scenes of the countryside, in the fields, in the streams, in the woods.

In their libraries are good books that abound not in sensations. They are good hunters and fine marksmen, and they are hospitable hosts. The refinements of life abide amongst them, and they are as gentle in peace as they are fierce and dauntless in war.

Mr. RIXEY was a representative man of this countryside. His father was a landholder. He himself had that land thirst which made him buy and cultivate the land whenever he was able to do so. He bespoke a people who loved home, who imbibe principles of love of country from the fireside. They respect character above all things; never call without reverence the name of woman.

The Representatives of this district have always been men of mark. The district looks upon its Representative as a man who must be one fit to hold a great and responsible office and worthy to discharge its trust and duty. Since the reconstruction period but six men have represented it: Elliot Braxton, descended from a signer of the Declaration of Independence; Eppa Hunton, renowned first in his service in the legislature of his State and in the State convention and then as a soldier, who led the iron-sides of battle; John S. Barbour, accomplished in many ways—in the studies of the academy; as president of a great railroad; as chairman of a great party; equal in mental grasp and in social dignity to any of the higher tasks of life. Then William H. F. Lee, a brave soldier and a noble gentleman, a man whose beautiful attachment to his every duty was like the esprit de corps which converts the soldier to the cause which commands his allegiance; then Elisha Meredith, a younger man of a new generation, but one of a most noble and manly type; manly and vigorous mold, generous, active, a true friend, a hardy champion, a man of hope who died too young, and then succeeding him came JOHN F. RIXEY, whom we mourn to-day.

Three of these Representatives have died while they served in the House of Representatives, Lee and Meredith, and now, also, RIXEY. Two of them became Senators of the United States—John S. Barbour and Eppa Hunton—and the former was borne from this Chamber to his last home. The latter survives, venerated of all. Who will be Mr. RIXEY'S successor no man knows, but we all know that these six gentlemen who have represented their State in the halls of Congress have represented it and their country well, and that their successor has worthy exemplars before him.

Mr. RIXEY'S home life was a happy one. He wedded Miss Barbour, daughter of James Barbour, who was a lawyer, legislator, and publicist, who was distinguished by the abilities which have characterized the family to which he belonged. For many years they dwelt together in the holy estate and in the quiet hospitable home. We pause at its threshold. But to its inmates go forth our deepest sympathy for the loss irreparable. We can neither retrieve nor heal it; we can only bow before Him whose mercy endureth forever.

In the fifty-fourth year of his age, while his ripened faculties, cultivated by experience as well as by education, were at maturity, and when they might have been of most benefit to his country, to his family, and to his kind, he has been cut down. There were premonitions of his end. A year ago, when Congress adjourned, it was known that he was ailing. It seemed that that dreadful disease, tuberculosis, had menaced if not yet fully attacked him. He went to the wholesome climate of Colorado seeking relief. But he sought it there in vain. He returned to his home. During his absence he had been chosen as his own successor. But it was not to be. He was for several months an invalid, and it became evident that the hand of the destroyer could not be stayed. Patient, sub-

missive, meeting the fate in store for him with the fortitude with which he had contemplated all the tasks and dangers and tribulations of life, peacefully, at his brother's home in this city, on the 9th day of last month, he breathed his last.

It is a characteristic of our race, Mr. President, and one worthy to be cultivated and preserved, that they do not make loud lamentations over the dead and do not seek ostentatious funerals. When their time has come they step aside for the generation that presses upon their heels. They would not add one memory of grief and sorrow to those left behind. It can be said of JOHN F. RIXEY that he performed a man's part in life and did it well and faithfully. It is enough.

His kindred, his companions, and his people honored him. Those dear to him loved him. Such was his reward. He proved equal to all the tasks which he assumed. He has passed hence, leaving a name to be cherished by those who loved him and to be honored and respected by those who knew him.

ADDRESS OF MR. HOPKINS, OF ILLINOIS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Death is ever an unwelcome guest. He is no respecter of person, no respecter of time or place. The laughing schoolboy feels the clutch of his icy fingers and passes from the pleasures and pastimes of childhood into the great unknown. The gray-haired man, who has conquered every obstacle that appeared in his pathway during a long and strenuous life, though surrounded by every comfort and luxury that wealth can bring, responds to the call that death sends to him, and leaves all and follows death out into the shadows and across the dark waters that separate this life from a future existence.

However long may be the struggle, however fierce the contest, all alike must sooner or later yield to that grim-visaged monster.

JOHN F. RIXEY has trodden the path prepared for him by death long before his exit from this world, and has passed into the great unknown. Many years before death finally claimed him for his own he recognized that he was stricken with a mortal disease, and, like the Christian philosopher that he was, prepared to meet his final conqueror with that perfect resignation that comes from a realization of a well-spent life here and an assurance that the transition from this life to another will take him to that better world where all Christians are taught the just will meet.

Death achieved no mastery over him. He fought the battle as becomes a true Christian, and when the inevitable hour approached welcomed death more in the spirit of a victor than that of the vanquished. Dearly as he loved this life, his family and friends, his native State and his country, he

believed that he was passing into that higher and holier existence that we are all taught is the fortune of those who follow the simple precepts of a Christian life.

I first met Mr. RIXEY in the House of Representatives in the Fifty-fifth Congress. He had just been elected to the House from the Eighth Virginia district, and I had been reelected from the then Eighth district of Illinois. I had had a service of some years in the House of Representatives and was well acquainted with many of the older Members of Congress from that State. That great Commonwealth and her public men have always had a great interest for me. The Northwest Territory, from which the State of Illinois was carved, was once a possession of Virginia, and all loyal citizens of Illinois take a natural pride in that State and her public men. Mr. RIXEY was a typical Virginian. He had inherited that love of country life that is characteristic of the great men of that State from the time of Washington and Jefferson to that of Lee and Wise. The men of mark in that State have been men who were passionately fond of country life.

Mr. RIXEY did not possess the brilliant qualities of mind that made Patrick Henry the first orator of his time and Robert E. Lee one of the greatest military geniuses of his age. His attainments were of the solid, substantial kind, that were so marked in the type of men like James Madison in the earlier history of the State, and more recently in men like the late Senator Barbour.

In his brief biographical sketch that he prepared for the Congressional Directory he described himself as a lawyer and a farmer. To men residing in great cities like Chicago, New York, or Philadelphia this combination of farmer and lawyer seems inconsistent, but it accurately described the life that was led by Mr. RIXEY. He was a country-bred lawyer, and when

He was not engaged in court or over his law books in the preparation of a case for trial, was out upon his plantation enjoying to the fullest limit the pleasures of rural life. It is said that he was very successful at the bar. From my knowledge of him as a Member of Congress, I can well appreciate the fact of his great success with courts and juries. He had an air of honesty that disarmed opposition, and possessed a clearness of speech and a cogency of reasoning that must have made him very effective with the jury of twelve or with the judge.

His experience upon his farms in coming in close touch with nature gave him keener perceptions and a nicer judgment on all questions of right and justice than can be acquired in a smoky law office in a great city. There is something about life in the country that broadens and enlightens the mind. Men who follow intellectual pursuits are greatly strengthened and broadened by this contact with nature that one derives from country life. John Marshall would never have given to the country and to the world those marvelous opinions construing the Constitution of our common country had he been deprived of the benefits and influences exerted upon him in that ideal country life that he enjoyed during the thirty-odd years that he was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The late Judge Drummond, of Chicago, is a man whose name is revered and loved by all lawyers who had the good fortune to practice in the circuit court of the United States at Chicago—the court over which he presided. I have often heard it said by those who were most familiar with him that whenever he was troubled over legal questions that were argued before him or when his mind was clouded or uncertain on what course he should adopt on litigation pending before him, he would go out into the country to his little farm, and there, while he was overseeing the care of his cattle and sheep and

hogs and horses, he solved the problems that perplexed him while in his court room in the great city; and when he came back to his court he came with a mind clarified and broadened by his country experience and administered the law in a spirit of fairness and justice that has placed his name among the greatest judges of this or any other country.

Mr. RIXEY naturally, from his mode of life, took a deep interest in politics, and that he should eventually represent his people in Congress was as natural and as inevitable as that night follows day. His practice at the bar in the circuit carried him over many of the counties of his district. The people in the court room learned of his high character, his candor, and his fidelity to duty, and when the time came in his career when he felt that he could abandon in whole or in part his law practice the people of the Eighth Virginia district honored themselves by electing him to the House of Representatives of the United States. The repeated elections which followed his first, show how well he met the expectations of his constituents and how fully he discharged all of the duties of a Representative in Congress. I found him during the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, and Fifty-seventh Congresses, in which I served with him, always alert when the interests of his constituents or of his State were involved. He was a broad-minded, patriotic citizen, and while he never forgot the people of his district or of his State, he was always quick to respond to any question that involved the true interests of his country.

Mr. President, Virginia will undoubtedly have in the future, as she has had in the past, men to represent her in the Congress of the United States of marvelous oratorical ability, but she will have no one, in my judgment, who will be more faithful to her interests or more true to his ideals than was JOHN F. RIXEY.

ADDRESS OF MR. HEMENWAY, OF INDIANA

Mr. PRESIDENT: I desire to add a few words of tribute to the memory of JOHN FRANKLIN RIXEY. I served with him in the lower House of Congress, and there learned to respect and admire him. He was a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, and my position on the Committee on Appropriations frequently brought me in personal contact with the members of his committee, and I shall never forget the industry, patience, and patriotism with which Mr. RIXEY discharged his duties as a Representative of the great State of Virginia. We differed in politics, but above partisanship there always shone out from his character the higher and nobler sentiments of a patriotic American citizen.

He was a typical Virginian, and he was proud of her history. He knew Virginia as the great State that she is, that has furnished to our country some of our most noted statesmen and greatest jurists. He was born in Culpeper County August 1, 1854, during the days when public sentiment was arraying itself on one side or the other of the question that seven years later resulted in the greatest war the world has ever witnessed. His earlier impressions were formed during the days when men thought deep and strong, when martial music filled the air and soldiers were marching to war. Though he lived in a section of the country where the fruits of war were most bitter and where the hand of destruction fell most heavily, yet in his life and public service there was naught but the broadest statesmanship that rejoices in a great united country.

Words of eulogy can not add to or detract from the fame of any man, but when offered as they are to-day they do credit to

those who speak them. Perhaps no higher tribute can be paid a man in public life than the tribute that he labored earnestly and faithfully to bring about matters of public benefit, and perhaps no public man who had an ambition to serve the people faithfully and earnestly would desire a greater compliment than to have it said of him "he succeeded."

Measured by this test, Mr. RIXEY'S life was complete. He not only served his people diligently and faithfully and accomplished much good, but he made many friends, who shall always remember him pleasantly and kindly.

ADDRESS OF MR. CARMACK, OF TENNESSEE

MR. PRESIDENT: The death of JOHN F. RIXEY was to me a personal grief. I served with him as a Member of the House, was brought into close and frequent contact with him in committee, and learned to know him—head and heart. We entered the House together. We became friends almost as soon as we became acquaintances. This friendship, upon my part, was based upon the only sure and enduring foundation of friendship, an admiration for the solid qualities of the man. I observed in my association with him that his conscientiousness in the performance of public duties was marked and exceptional. He loved to know things thoroughly and to do things well. He sought with earnest purpose to know his premises perfectly before he reasoned to the conclusion. He brought to the consideration of public questions a mind that was lucid, clear, and logical. It seemed to me that he labored to cast out of his thought all prejudice and preconceived opinion when he had to deal with a particular case. He had fixed principles which he held, not for show nor for purposes of academic discussion. They were to him rules of life, and he made his opinions and his conduct in particular cases conform rigidly thereto. Truth and right and justice were always present with him.

In dealing with public matters his thought was directed to the merits of the question in debate rather than to the temper or disposition of his audience, and his power of persuasion lay in the force of his reasoning, the lucidity of his statement, and his clear comprehension of the subject. He was a man of ability—of much more than usual ability—and yet it was his character more than his intellect that commanded respect. The

same might be said of every man who is truly great. It was true of Washington; it was true of Lee; it was true of Alfred. JOHN F. RIXEY had a character which made him love the right; he had an intellect which enabled him to understand and defend it.

He therefore could always command attention. While never a rhetorical, he was always an interesting, speaker, for he brought to the discussion of every question that most compelling of all faculties, earnestness—an evident sincerity and a strong conviction. His intellectual abilities would not have made him what he was if they had not been coupled with love of truth and justice. I saw and observed this quality in him when we were members of the Committee on Claims in the House of Representatives. No false or unjust demand upon the public Treasury could evade his relentless questioning; but he was as eager to do justice to the claimant as he was to the Government, and every honest claim found in him an earnest champion.

Before he entered public life he had won distinction as a lawyer in competition with a bar famed for legal lore and skilled in forensic combat. There were perhaps many of those whom he met in such combat who had, in the popular sense of the term, a greater gift of eloquence than he. He was a match for the best of them, because he was learned in the law, industrious in the preparation of his cause, and clear and logical in its presentation, and had that indescribable power of character which gives double power to the intellectual faculties. Those who knew him as a lawyer not only testify to his ability, but to the fidelity with which he observed the ethics and honorable traditions of a noble profession. This was a part of his character as a gentleman, born and bred.

From my first acquaintance with JOHN F. RIXEY he seemed a man in feeble and failing health, whose mental energies held

disease at bay. In the latter years of his service this fatal disease made steady progress upon him, but he clung heroically to his post of duty, disregarding the warnings of his physicians and the pleadings of his friends that he might be faithful—faithful to the last—to his trust. He felt that the high honors his people had bestowed upon him demanded of him a great sacrifice in their service. He made that sacrifice to the uttermost—“greater love hath no man than this.”

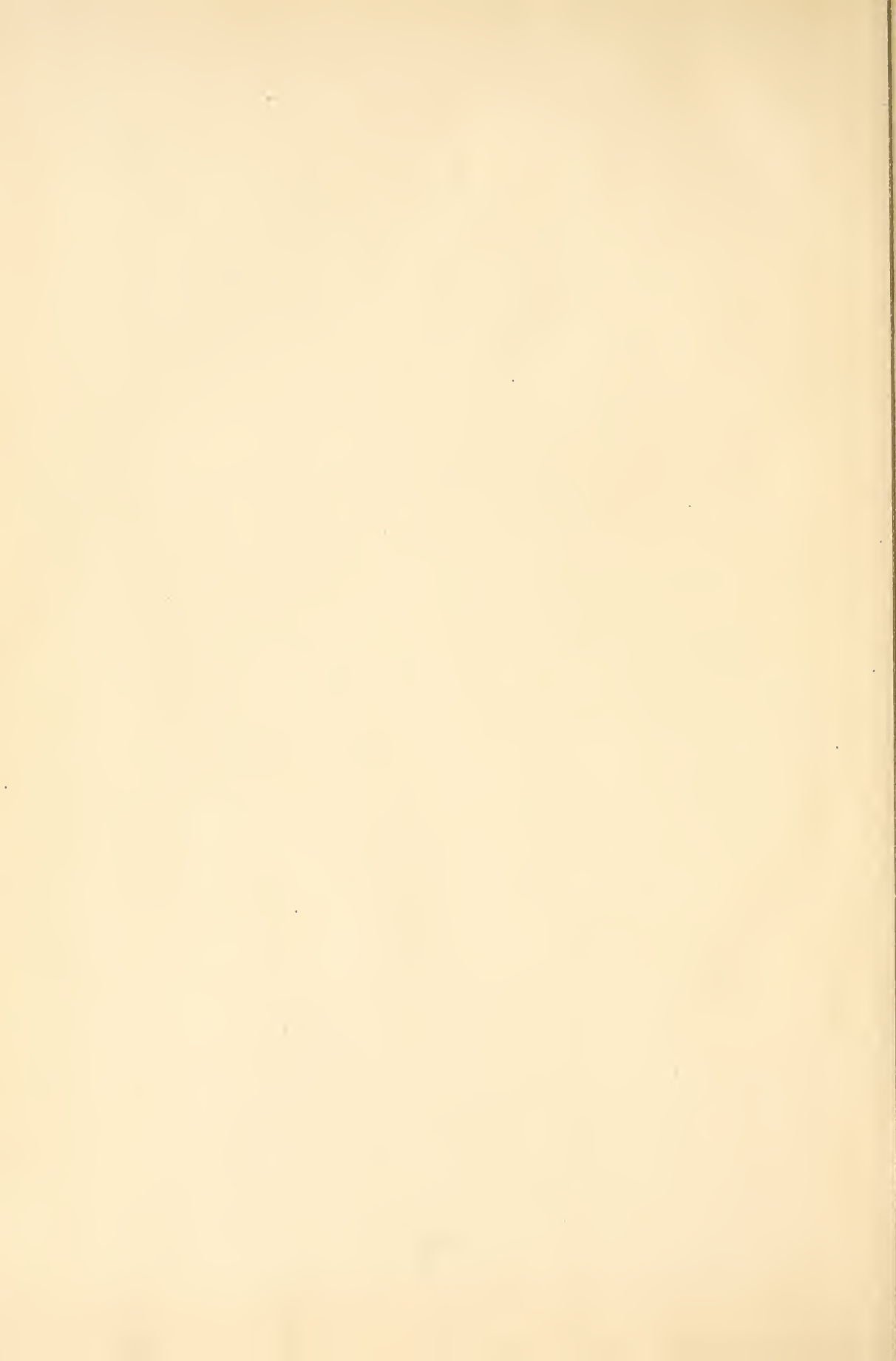
JOHN F. RIXEY was not only esteemed and respected, but by those who knew him he was loved. He had that charm of manner which goes with a pure and upright soul—the charm which, unconsciously and without effort, sheds itself abroad, a charm which all men feel, but which none can define.

It is to me a melancholy pleasure to lay my humble wreath upon the coffin of so grand a man. I hope the few but earnest words I speak may be of some comfort to his family and his friends. Whenever such a life goes out there is the comforting thought that such a character and such a life can never be in vain. The pure spirit of JOHN F. RIXEY has passed beyond the bounds of this mortal life; but he lives, not alone in the loving hearts of friends and family, but in the blessed influence he left behind, which will help to make in his own image the lives of those who come after him.



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